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Ocalea phrenetica sp. n. from South Poland (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)

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Abstract. A remarkable new species of Aleocharinae, *Ocalea phrenetica* sp. n. is described and illustrated from South Poland. Its affinity with related species is discussed.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Ocalea, new species, Poland.

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The genus *Ocalea* ERICHSON, 1837 contains more than 40 species and is distributed through the Neotropical, Nearctic, Palearctic, Oriental and Indo-Australian zoogeographical regions. There are at least twenty one Palearctic species (BERNHAUER and SCHEERPELTZ 1926, LOHSE 1974, FAGEL 1957, PACE 1999, SCHEERPELTZ 1937).

In connection with a study staphylinids diversity in Polish Carpatian, a remarkable new species of *Ocalea* was discovered. This species, described here as *O. phrenetica* sp. n., differs from all previously known species of the genus by an unique shape of spermatheca.

The type material is deposited in the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals PAS, Kraków, Poland.

Ocalea phrenetica sp.n.

(Fig. 1)

M a t e r i a l. Holotype, ♀: Poland, Pogórze Przemyskie, Łodzinka Górna, 15.x.1996, leaf litter in alder brushwoods along Wiar river, leg. G. PAŚNIK. Paratype, ♀: same data as holotype

D e s c r i p t i o n o f f e m a l e. Length 5.3-5.5 mm. Body convex, parallel-sided, shining; ground colour black; pronotum pitchy brown, elytra reddish-brown, posterior margins of abdominal tergites dark red, legs and antennae red.

Head semicircular, narrower than pronotum, eyes minutely protruding from lateral contours of head, length of each seen from above subequal to that of postocular region; surface of head with very fine, indistinct transverse microsculpture; punctation moderately coarse and moderately dense, rather superficial. Antennae robust, slightly increase in width to apex, antennomere 3 as long as 2, antennomeres 4-6 longer than wide, antennomeres 7-10 subquadrate.

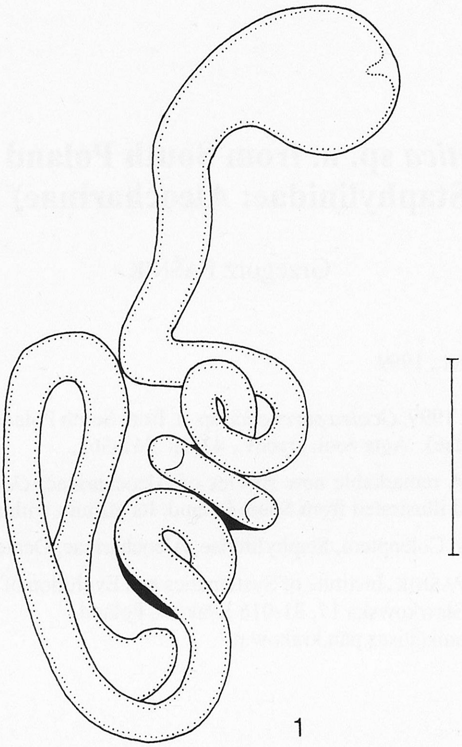


Fig. 1. *Ocalea phrenetica* sp. n. – shape of spermatheca.

Pronotum convex, slightly transverse (index 17:15), widest in apical 1/3, sides rounded in front, convergent in straight line to obtuse hind angles; punctation coarser and denser than that on head, spaces between punctation without microsculpture; pubescence at midline directed anteriorly.

Elytra transverse, 1.3 times broader than their length at sides, slightly broader than pronotum, at suture slightly shorter than pronotum at its midline (index 13:15); surface without microsculpture, punctation similar to that on pronotum but denser; pubescence directed slightly, obliquely posteriorly.

Abdomen subparallel-sided, bases of tergites 3-5 each with deep, transverse impression, tergite 8 longer than 7, punctation very fine and very sparse, spaces between punctures without microsculpture.

Spermatheca (Fig. 1) with small, oblong capsule, four coils at middle of duct and twisted posterior portion.

Male unknown.

R e m a r k s. Among European members of the genus, *Ocalea phrenetica* sp.n. is most similar to *Ocalea badia* ERICHSON, 1837 as well as to its ssp. *robusta* BERNHAUER, 1902. However, it may be readily distinguished from both these forms by its larger body, the coarser punctation of the head and pronotum, the more convex pronotum, the more robust antennae and mostly by an unique shape of spermatheca, hitherto unknown in this group of species.

E t y m o l o g y. The name *phrenetica* refers to the unusual shape of spermatheca.

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